

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NIAMEY 00748 231225Z

42

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-11 ISO-00 SAM-01 DHA-02

ACDA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /094 W

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R 231156Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2944

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L NIAMEY 0748

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAU, NG

SUBJ: NIGER VIEWS ON ISSUES BEFORE OAU COUNCIL OF
MINISTERS MEETING

REF: A) STATE 041491; B) STATE 041818

1. DURING MEETING WITH PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE FEB 20
HE REFERRED TO FORTHCOMING MEETING OF OAU COUNCIL
OF MINISTERS AND OBSERVED THAT SO-CALLED BUDGETARY
AND ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION UNFORTUNATELY FOUND
ITSELF BURDENED WITH SUCH POLITICAL ISSUES
AS ANGOLA, SPANISH SAHARA, DJIBOUTI AND
COMORES ISLAM S. ASKED FOR POSITION NIGER
WOULD TAKE ON THESE ISSUES AT OAU, KOUNTCHE
RESPONDED AS FOLLOWS:

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PAGE 02 NIAMEY 00748 231225Z

A) SPANISH SAHARA: GON FONMIN DJERMAKOYE WAS UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO OPPOSE RECOGNITION OF POLISARIO OR ITS ADMITTANCE IN ANY CAPACITY TO OAU AND OTHERWISE TO SUPPORT GENERAL CONCEPT OF SELF-DETERMINATION. HE SAID IT WAS ONE THING TO RECOGNIZE AND BACK LIBERATION MOVEMENT FIGHTING COLONIAL POWER, IT WAS ENTIRELY DIFFERENT MATTER TO RECOGNIZE MOVEMENT LIKE POLISARIO, OBJECTIVE OF WHICH WAS TO OPPOSE TWO AFRICAN COUNTRIES. AS FOR LARGER QUESTION OF SPANISH SAHARA AND CONFLICT BETWEEN MOROCCO AND ALGERIA, HE SAID BOTH OAU AND UN HAD FAILED MISERABLY TO DEAL WITH MATTER AND PRINCIPAL LOSER SO FAR WAS MAURITANIA WHICH WAS BEING USED AS PAWN BY BOTH MOROCCO AND ALGERIA. RESOLUTION OF CONFLICT WAS URGENT MATTER; OTHERWISE, SOVIETS WOULD MOVE IN TO EXPLOIT SITUATION TO DISADVANTAGE OF AFRICAN STATES.

COMMENT: GON IS CAUGHT IN MIDDLE ON SPANISH SAHARA ISSUE, HAVING TRADITIONAL TIES WITH ITS SAHELIAN NEIGHBOR MAURITANIA AND BEING UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE FROM ALGERIA. STRAIN WAS EVIDENT AND KOUNTCHE DECLARED HIMSELF AS GENUINELY WORRIED OVER CONFLICT WHICH IS MUCH CLOSER TO HOME THAN ANGOLA AND WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS MOST SERIOUS ISSUE FACING AFRICA IN 1976. HE EXPRESSED HIMSELF AS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED OVER EVENTUAL SOVIET EXPLOITATION OF ISSUE WHICH WOULD ESCALATE AFFAIR TO DETRIMENT OF AFRICAN STATES CONCERNED AND ESPECIALLY MAURITANIA WHICH HAD LITTLE TO GAIN AND MUCH TO LOSE.END COMMENT.

B) DJIBOUTI: HERE, ACCORDING TO KOUNTCHE, CONTROLLING FACTOR WAS FRANCE'S DECISION TO GRANT DJIBOUTI ITS INDEPENDENCE AND THIS IS WHAT OAU SHOULD ADDRESS. INTRODUCTION OF ISSUES SUCH AS SELF-DETERMINATION BY SOMALIA AND OTHERS WAS EXTRANEIOUS TO BASIC OBJECTIVE OF DJIBOUTI'S INDEPENDENCE AND WOULD BE OPPOSED BY NIGER.

C) COMORES ISLANDS: SINCE MAYOTTE WAS AN ISLAND RATHER THAN TERRITORIALLY ATOAAJ TO COMORES, PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION COULD GOVERN. MAYOTTE SHOULD BE ALLOWED GO ITS OWN WAY.
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PAGE 03 NIAMEY 00748 231225Z

D) ANGOLA: ALTHOUGH GON RECOGNIZES MPLA, IT WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT ANY MOVES TO: A) BRING WARRING FACTIONS TOGETHER INTO MORE "REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT OF RECONCILIATION", AND B) REMOVE FOREIGN TROOPS.HECK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BUDGETS, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976NIAMEY00748
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760067-0435
From: NIAMEY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760223/aaaaatyy.tel
Line Count: 112
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 41491, 76 STATE 41818
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 APR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <10 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NIGER VIEWS ON ISSUES BEFORE OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING
TAGS: PFOR, NG, OAU, (KOUNTCHE, SEYNI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006